

PCT



PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 7552.0041

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
 )  
 Andrea PARRINO et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3751  
 )  
 Application No.: 10/511,391 ) Examiner: John K. Fristoe, Jr.  
 )  
 Filed: October 15, 2004 )  
 )  
 For: CONNECTION ELEMENT AND ) Confirmation No.: 2102  
 CONNECTING DEVICE FOR )  
 TUBES )

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Enclosed is a reply to the Office Action of August 9, 2006. The item(s) checked below are appropriate:

The claims are calculated below:

	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest Number Previously Paid	Present Extra	Rate	Additional Fee
Total	65	-	20	45	x \$ 50	\$ 2,250.00
Indep.	5	-	3	2	x \$200	400.00
<input type="checkbox"/> First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim(s)					+\$360	0
Subtotal						\$ 2,650.00
Reduction by ½ if small entity						- 0
TOTAL						\$ 2,650.00

☒ A fee of \$2,650.00 to cover the cost of the additional claims added by this reply is enclosed.


11/15/2006 GFREY1 00000100 10511391

01 FC:1615  
 02 FC:1614

2250.00 OP  
 400.00 OP

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Dated: November 9, 2006

By:   
Aaron L. Parker  
Reg. No. 50,785



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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

In reply to the Office Action mailed August 9, 2006, the period for response extending to November 9, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this Reply.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 27 of this Reply.